

## DRAFT Preliminary Assessment Petition

Region IX United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Superfund Division  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

*Under the authority of CERCLA Section 105 (d), as amended, the petitioner*

**(Name):** Orange County Water District

**(Address):** 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California 92708

**(Telephone Number):** (714) 378-3337

*Hereby requests that Region IX conduct a preliminary assessment of the suspected release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant at the following location:*

**Location Description:** The site is located at 311 South Highland Avenue, Fullerton, California is referred to as the Fullerton Manufacturing Site. The site is located in an industrial area approximately one mile north of Highway 91. Figure 1 is a site location map.

**Petitioner is affected by the release because:** The groundwater basin that underlies the northern and central portions of Orange County is the source of potable water for more than 20 cities and water agencies that serve more than 2.3 million Orange County residents. Groundwater beneath the northern portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin (referred to herein as North Basin) has been impacted by Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) at concentrations exceeding drinking water standards. Through its enabling legislation, Orange County Water District is responsible for managing groundwater supplies, including water quality, within the entire Groundwater Basin. To date, four water supply wells in the North Basin area have been closed due to VOC contamination, and approximately 10 additional water supply wells are threatened. The impacted areas are associated with chemical releases at multiple long-term industrial sites in the area.

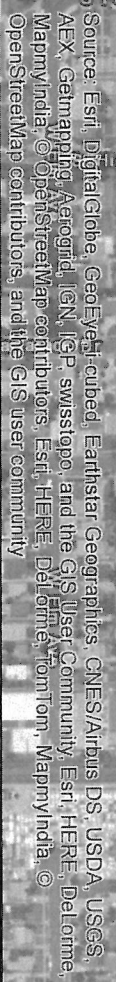
At the Fullerton Manufacturing Site, a dip tank was used to clean metal furniture parts prior to chromium plating. Available soil and groundwater data collected at the site suggest that this site may be a significant contributor to the North Basin groundwater contamination.

**Type or characteristics of the substances involved:** Available and soil and groundwater data collected in the late 1990s and early 2000s suggest that PCE (tetrachloroethylene) and TCE (trichloroethylene) was released at the site. In 1994, a soil sample was collected from location MW-1 with a TCE concentration of 590 micrograms per kilogram ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ) at 65 feet below ground surface (bgs). The most recent groundwater samples were collected in 2002. TCE was detected at a concentration of 3,069 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ ) in groundwater at monitoring well MW-1. See Figure 2 for the locations of the monitoring wells and the concentrations of TCE in the shallow zone monitoring wells in 2002.

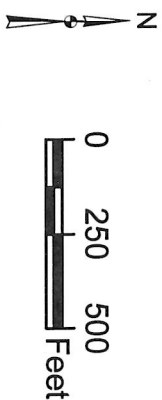
**Nature and history of any activities that have occurred regarding the release:** From approximately 1946 to 1955, the site was used to manufacture metal furniture and portable housing. From 1973 to 1992, the site was used for manufacture of molded rubber products. In

1978, Fullerton Manufacturing Company assumed operations. Since 1992, the site has been occupied by office space and as a warehouse by a footwear retailer.

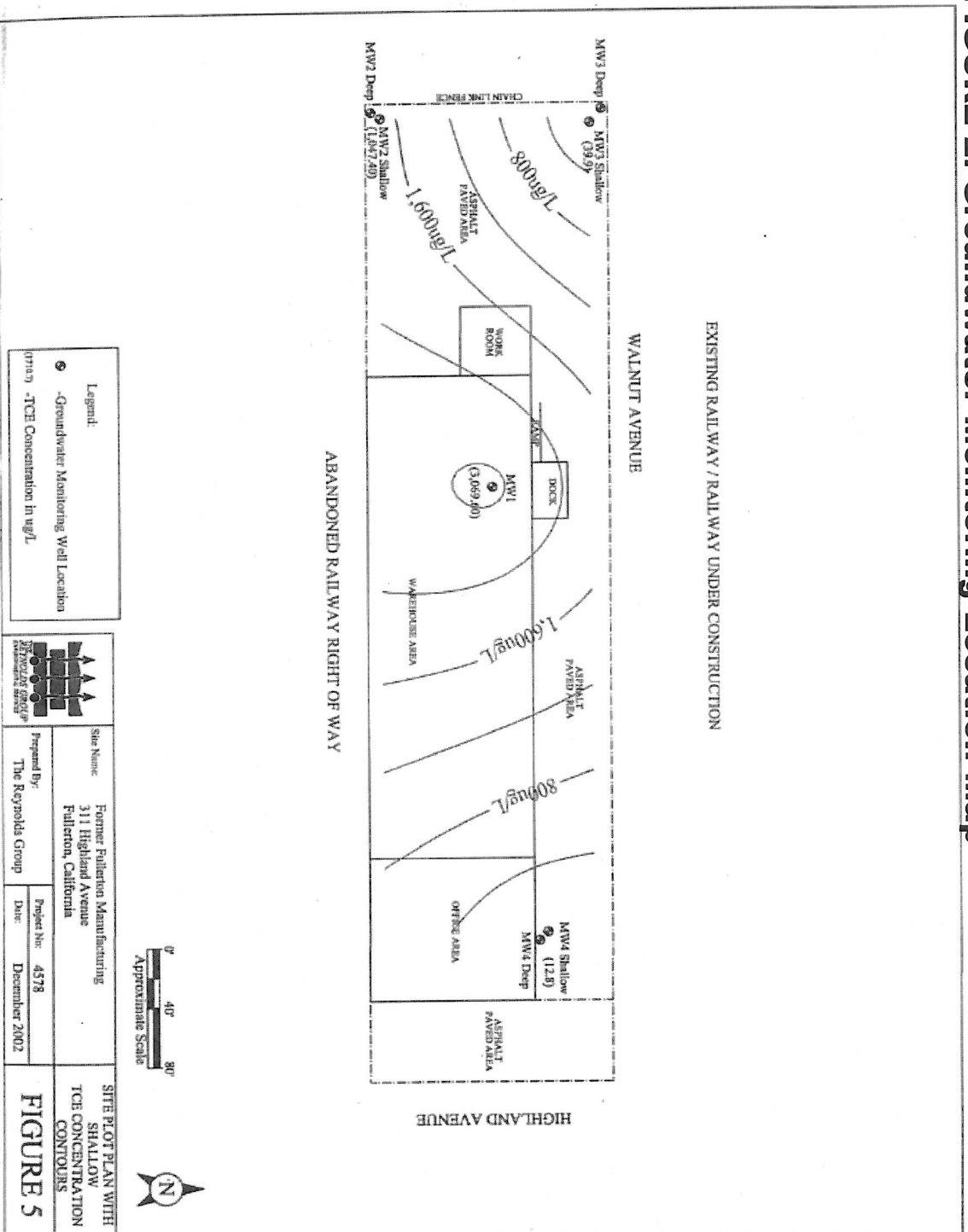
**State and local authorities you have contacted about the release and the response, if any:** On the Regional Water Quality Control Board's website (Geotracker), the status of this site is "Open – Site Assessment as of 10/17/1994". There were four quarters of groundwater monitoring data collected by the owner in 2002. The site is not closed but there is no evidence that any remediation activity has ever occurred here. State and local regulatory agencies have not required additional subsurface characterization or remediation since 2002. During meetings and email communications in 2014, OCWD identified this site and the subsurface TCE contamination, as a concern to both the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Department of Toxic Substances Control.



**Former Fullerton Manufacturing Site  
311 South Highland Avenue, Fullerton, California**



**FIGURE 2: Groundwater Monitoring Location Map**



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